

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

29. (previously presented) A process for making a backseamed casing, comprising:

(A) preparing a multilayer heat-shrinkable film comprising:

- (i) a first outer layer serving as an inside casing layer, the first outer layer comprising a first polyolefin comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, propylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, and butene/unsaturated acid copolymer, wherein the unsaturated acid is present in an amount of at least 4 weight percent, based on the weight of the copolymer; and
 - (b) anhydride-containing polyolefin comprising an anhydride-functionality, wherein the anhydride functionality is present in an amount of at least 1 weight percent, based on the weight of the anhydride-containing polyolefin;
- (ii) a second layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester and a first polyamide; and
- (iii) a third layer serving as an outside casing layer, the third layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of second polyolefin, polystyrene, and a second polyamide; and

wherein the second layer is between the first layer and the third layer, and the second layer has a thickness of at least 5% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film;

- (B) wrapping the film longitudinally around a forming shoe with opposing length film sheet edges being overlapped or abutted with one another;
- (C) sealing the film longitudinally to form a backseam; followed by
- (D) forwarding the film.

30. (previously presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the third layer comprises the second polyolefin.

31. (previously presented) The process according to claim 30, wherein the second layer comprises the first polyamide.

32. (previously presented) The process according to claim 30, wherein the first layer further comprises a third polyolefin comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyethylene homopolymer, polyethylene copolymer, polypropylene homopolymer, polypropylene copolymer, polybutene homopolymer, and polybutene copolymer.

33. (previously presented) The process according to claim 32, wherein the second polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C, and the third polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C.

34. (previously presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the first polyolefin comprises an ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer having an unsaturated acid mer present in an amount of at least 9 percent, based on the weight of the ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

35. (previously presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the third layer comprises the second polyamide.

36. (previously presented) The process according to claim 30, wherein the first polyolefin comprises an ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, the unsaturated acid is present in an amount of at least 6 weight percent, based on the weight of the ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

37. (previously presented) The process according to claim 36, wherein the casing film further comprises a fourth layer, the fourth layer being an inner layer serving as an O₂-barrier layer, the fourth layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinylidene chloride copolymer, polyethylene carbonate copolymer and polyamide.

38. (previously presented) The process according to claim 37, wherein the second layer and the fourth layer are directly adhered.

39. (previously presented) The process according to claim 37, wherein the casing film further comprises a fifth layer and a sixth layer, wherein:

the fifth layer is between the first layer and the second layer, and the sixth layer is between the second layer and the third layer;

the fifth layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of fourth polyolefin, polystyrene and polyurethane; and

the sixth layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of fifth polyolefin, polystyrene and polyurethane.

40. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the second layer consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester, and first polyamide.

41. (previously presented) The process according to claim 40, wherein:

the second layer has a thickness of from about 5 to 20 percent, based on a total thickness of the multilayer film; and

the fourth layer has a thickness of less than about 15%, based on a total thickness of the multilayer film.

42. (previously presented) The process according to claim 40, wherein the first polyamide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 66, polyamide 9, polyamide 10, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamide 69, polyamide 610, polyamide 612, polyamide 6I, polyamide 6T, and copolymers thereof.

43. (previously presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the casing film has biaxial orientation, and a free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10% in at least one direction.

44. (previously presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein at least a portion of the casing film comprises a crosslinked polymer network.

45. (previously presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the backseam casing is a lap-seal backseam casing.

46. (previously presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the second layer comprises the first polyamide and further comprises a third polyamide.

47. (previously presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the second layer has a thickness of from 5% to about 20% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film total film thickness.

48. (currently amended) A process for making a backseamed casing, comprising:

(A) preparing a multilayer heat-shrinkable film comprising:

- (i) a first outer layer serving as an inside casing layer, the first outer layer comprising a first polyolefin, the first outer layer having a surface energy level of less than about 34 dynes/cm;
- (ii) a second layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester and a first polyamide; and
- (iii) a third layer serving as an outside casing layer, the third outer layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a second polyolefin, polystyrene and a second polyamide;

wherein the second layer is between the first layer and the third layer, and the second layer has a thickness of at least 5% of a total thickness of the heat-shrinkable casing film, and the first outer layer does not comprise a blend of a propylene/ethylene copolymer and homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than 0.90 g/cc wherein the blend makes up a majority of the first outer layer;

- (B) wrapping the film longitudinally around a forming shoe with opposing length film sheet edges being overlapped or abutted with one another;
- (C) sealing the film longitudinally to form a backseam; followed by
- (D) forwarding the film.

49. (new) The process according to Claim 48, wherein the first outer layer does not comprise a blend of propylene/ethylene copolymer and homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than 0.90 g/cc.

50. (new) The process according to Claim 48, wherein the second layer comprises the first polyamide.

51. (new) The process according to Claim 50, wherein the first polyamide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 66, polyamide 9, polyamide 10, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamide 69, polyamide 610, polyamide 612, polyamide 6I, polyamide 6T, and copolymers thereof.

52. (new) The process according to Claim 51, wherein the first polyamide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 6I, polyamide 6T, and copolymers thereof.

53. (new) The process according to claim 48, wherein the second polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C, and the third polyolefin has a vicat softening point of at least 90°C.

54. (new) The process according to claim 48, wherein the casing film has biaxial orientation, and a free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10% in at least one direction.

55. (new) The process according to claim 48, wherein at least a portion of the casing film comprises a crosslinked polymer network.

56. (new) The process according to claim 48, wherein the backseamed casing is a lap-seal backseamed casing.

57. (new) The process according to claim 48, wherein the second layer comprises the first polyamide and further comprises a third polyamide.